

HOUSE BILL 1656

By Sexton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 7, relative to registered nurse first assistants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

63-7-128.

(a) As used in this section, "registered nurse first assistant" means a person who:

- (1) Is licensed as a registered nurse in this state;
- (2) Is certified in perioperative nursing; and
- (3) Has successfully completed a registered nurse first assistant education program that meets the education standard of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses for a registered nurse first assistant.

(b) Registered nurses holding the education and practice credentials of a registered nurse first assistant may apply to the board of nursing for a certificate to practice as a registered nurse first assistant, including authorization to use the title "registered nurse first assistant" or the abbreviation "RFNA". No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters or signs to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse first assistant.

(c) An applicant for a certificate to practice as a registered nurse first assistant shall pay an initial fee as set by the board as well as a biennial renewal fee as set by the board.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.